



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

July 28, 2008, Issue 9

UKRAINE

Sixty-four Interns Participate in 13th Annual Parliamentary Internship Program Certificate Awards Ceremony

A ceremony marking the successful completion of the 2007-2008 Parliamentary Internship Program took place in the Verkhovna Rada on July 11. It was the 13th graduating class of the internship program, which USAID has sponsored since its inception in 1995. Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Volodymyr Yaloviy and USAID Mission Director Peter Argo awarded certificates to 64 graduates.



USAID Mission Director Peter Argo awards a certificate to a participant.

During the past eight months, the students - from various regions of Ukraine - interned with 28 parliamentary committees and administrative departments of the Verkhovna Rada. The 45 full-time, 5 part-time and 14 volunteers served as assistants to committees of the Verkhovna Rada and provided support in the Secretariat offices and departments. The participants took part in legislation-drafting and organized public hearings, committee meetings and round-table discussions. They also participated in courses and trainings in public policy analysis, gender

policy, legislative mechanisms, law drafting, and rules of procedure. On a weekly basis, interns met with prominent politicians and decision-makers of Ukraine and foreign experts as part of the "Young Leadership Series."



Parliamentary Internship Program 2007-2008 participants.

This year the Verkhovna Rada made a significant additional contribution by providing access to low-cost dormitories for interns living outside of Kyiv. The Verkhovna Rada also provides the office space and meeting rooms for project staff managing the program and conducts the four-month Policy Analysis course for the interns. In the last 13 years, 785 young specialists have completed the Parliamentary Internship Program.

Leaders of Six Communities in Kherson Oblast sign Letter of Intent with USAID on Regional Economic Development

Leaders of four cities and two raions (districts) in Kherson Oblast signed a Letter of Intent on June 26 with USAID's Local Economic Development project, launching a pilot project aimed at enhancing regional competitiveness.

The document was signed by representatives

from the cities of Beryslav, Kakhovka, Nova Kakhovka and Tavriysk, and the raions of Beryslav and Kakhovk during an introductory meeting of the Strategic Development Committee of the Tavria Territorial Communities Association, which the regional economic development initiative is tentatively being called.



Signing the Letter of Intent.

The regional development effort will include two new elements not found in LED's municipal strategic planning – an activity in which majority of the audience had participated in their cities.



LED Project Chief of Party Howard Ockman (center) expresses his delight in seeing a tangible result of Nova Kakhovka's investment attraction endeavors.

First, the Strategic Development Committee will identify two key industries in the region and target them for development, and second, an effort will be made to identify additional common regional issues or problems.

Though the meeting venue was the city hall in Nova Kakhovka, it was repeatedly emphasized that it did not mean that this city would somehow be "more equal than others". As Nova Kakhovka Mayor Volodymyr Kovalenko put it, "We have common problems and have the good sense not to argue with each other on who of us is more important."

U.S. SEC Launches Training Program for Ukrainian Counterparts

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) assisted by USAID's Capital Markets Project conducted a five-day Capital Market Development Training Program for staff members of the Central Office and Regional Offices of the Securities and Stock Market State Commission of Ukraine (SSMSC) on June 23-June 27.



U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor (left), SSMSC staff member and participant Victoria Zymnenko, who holds the Capital Market Development Training Program certificate, and SSMSC Chief of Staff Yuriy Nazarenko

The program's goal was to improve the regulation of Ukraine's securities market and show participants how to enhance relevant securities legislation according to international standards and best practices. The training program included a complete overview of capital markets regulation encountered by regulators in a market such as Ukraine. An emphasis was placed on issues of supervision, enforcement, information disclosure and regulation, which are

of particular importance to Ukraine's capital market development. Representatives from Georgia, Armenia, Moldova and Kyrgyzstan also attended the training program, which gave regional impact and maximized the effect of the SEC training. It also offered networking opportunities for the SSMSC with other developing markets.

On the last day U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor presented completion certificates to the participants. Ambassador Taylor's presence highlighted the importance that the U.S. places on its assistance to and cooperation with the Ukrainian government in developing capital markets in Ukraine and bringing the Ukrainian market into the global arena of commerce.

Together for Health Joins with Bayer Schering to Counter Contraception Myths among Doctors



Two Bayer-Schering Pharma medical representatives role-playing a doctor's visit, using "CATs" methodology in discussing contraceptive methods. (Photo: O. Shmanko).

USAID's Together for Health project in Ukraine and Bayer Schering Pharma co-hosted two innovative "evidence-based medicine" (EBM) workshops on June 23-25.

Bayer Schering Pharma medical representatives, medical trainers and key medical opinion leaders were trained on how to address misconceptions around hormonal contraceptives by using evidence-based medical information during promotional visits, medical roundtables, and seminars for health professionals.

Bayer Schering Pharma, a world leader in manufacturing of contraceptives and the contraceptive market leader in Ukraine, is the first pharmaceutical company to introduce the EBM paradigm to its medical detailing team and influential Ukrainian physicians who help shape national opinion around contraception.

Both workshops focused on providing participants with the information and skills necessary to respond to the most common myths about hormonal contraception, myths that are still widespread among Ukrainian medical professionals. The knowledge and skills gained by Bayer Schering Pharma representatives during the workshops will help reinforce messages provided through clinical trainings organized by the Together for Health (TfH) project - which is managed by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. in collaboration with the Academy for Educational Development - and will expand access to international evidence-based contraceptive updates to health professionals working outside of the 13 oblasts in which the project is working. Pharmaceutical company representatives can provide medical information to thousands of doctors each year, reinforcing many of the key messages delivered to health professionals in TfH's clinical trainings, and reaching far more health professionals than the project on its own can train.

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